

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4167, NATIONAL FOOD UNIFORMITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-386) on the resolution (H. Res. 710) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4167) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 415

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 415.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING KIRBY PUCKETT

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, baseball fans everywhere, and in Minnesota in particular, mourn the passing of Kirby Puckett. Kirby Puckett was born to play baseball. He lived for the game. In an era of oversized egos and greed gone mad, he was a throwback to an earlier time.

Kirby was the ultimate underdog. Born to humble beginnings, he related to kids that could not afford to buy an autograph. Like a bumblebee, he did not know that his stubby body could not fly. Propelled only by an infectious enthusiasm, he amazed us with leaping catches that mere mortals would have conceded to the bleachers.

We always knew that with Kirby in the game the underdog Twins always had a chance. With his bat, his glove or with his smile, he made everyone around him play better.

He embodied the essence of all that baseball is supposed to be. The game will go on, new heroes will emerge, but there will never be another Kirby Puckett.

PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I hold the Constitution dear and I also believe that we can secure our homeland and we can find the right way to do the PATRIOT Act, but it concerns me when we have allowed the expansion of this act to expand the surveillance of Americans.

We did not do what we should have done today because, in fact, national

security letters can be issued to any American without showing any culpability or affiliation with terrorist acts or terrorists. In addition, our libraries are not protected because if you have one Internet service at your library, national security letters can be issued, and the gag order that could have been issued under the old bill immediately now has to wait a year. So that means that you are going to be raided with any materials that the government asks for and you cannot even have a gag order issued.

I know that we can protect the Constitution, the rights of Americans and still protect national security. Why did we not do it right? This is not the right PATRIOT Act, and for that reason, I had to vote "no." I hope we get it right some day and protect the Constitution.

VENEZUELA'S DICTATOR

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it is abundantly clear that the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, is neither a friend of democracy nor a friend of the United States. Mr. Chavez has consistently rattled the anti-United States sabers. He made best friends with Fidel Castro and Cindy Sheehan, and he supported radical revolutionaries in Latin and South American countries.

Mr. Chavez has also radically altered his own country's political institutions, creating a disgusting and disgraceful dictatorship that does not deserve our support.

Why is it then, Mr. Speaker, that the United States gives Mr. Chavez's government millions in direct aid each year? As our friend and Congressman, LOUIE GOHMERT says, "Why do we pay them to hate us?"

Mr. Speaker, it is absolute hypocrisy to fund this corrupt communist dictator on Monday and then complain about his antidemocratic actions on Tuesday.

Do we give money to Venezuela because we need them as a source for crude oil? If so, this is another reason we should become energy self-sufficient and not depend on Third World dictatorships for oil.

Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be.

NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAM A SUCCESS IN FLORIDA

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the very first time in American history, every senior will now have access to prescription drugs.

In my district on the gulf coast of Florida, we have seen the huge success of the program, within many of the counties over 60 percent of the seniors

signing up for the new benefit in just the first month and a half.

As my constituents know very well, one of the strongest supporters of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit has been AARP, the leading advocate for seniors in America.

Like AARP, I have long been going out into my local communities and encouraging seniors to sign up for one of the programs offered in their home area.

Just 10 days ago, I hosted a Medicare outreach bus in Spring Hill. It was there that I heard from a man named Joseph Drexler, who was able to drastically reduce his yearly prescription drug costs. Skeptical of the program when he arrived, Mr. Drexler left the help station saying this about his CMS enrollment counselor: "She deserves a medal or something."

Mr. Speaker, it is the experiences of men and women like Joseph Drexler across America that have proven the new Medicare prescription drug plan to be a rousing success.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this evening, legislation to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act came before the House, and something attached to the PATRIOT Act that sometimes has escaped notice is the fact that legislation to address the methamphetamine epidemic spreading across the country was included.

This legislation provides a uniform, national standard for the regulation of precursor chemicals which are necessary to the manufacture of methamphetamine. Currently, we have a hodgepodge of State laws and regulations. This provides a national standard that is uniform and this is very important.

Key provisions are as follows: limits the amount of pseudoephedrine sales, and pseudoephedrine has to be an ingredient to make methamphetamine. They cannot do it without it.

It requires that pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals are sold from behind the counter. In many cases now you can go in and pick them up.

Requires purchasers of these chemicals to show I.D. and sign a logbook.

Restricts Internet sales of precursor chemicals.

So if we look at this, Mr. Speaker, we see that in 1990 there were only two States that had 20 clandestine meth labs each. California had 20 or more and Texas had 20 or more. Then you see